The State Governments have also been requested to form a Monitoring Committee headed by the Chief Secretary to facilitate expeditious development of coal/lignite blocks.

So far, seven coal blocks have been de-allocated after following due process.

Production of synthesis gas at Talchar in Orissa

1839. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s SASOL-TATA combine are producing synthesis gas from their own Coal To Liquid (CTL) project at Talchar in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the end products and consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) M/s Strategic Energy Technology Systems Limited, a joint venture formed by TATA and SASOL, has been allocated North of Arkhapal coal block on 27.02.2009 with geological reserves of 1500 million tonnes of coal for their coal-to-liquid project in Orissa. The block is unexplored and as per the guidelines for development of coal block, 27 months is allowed for detailed prospecting. These is no coal production at present.

Revival of MAMC

1840. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 334 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th August, 2007 and state:

(a) the present status of implementation of MoU that had been signed between CIL and DVC on 1st June, 2007 on the revival of MAMC; and

(b) the tentative date for commencement of the revival process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) was firmed up by an agreement signed on 18.09.2007. Subsequently, Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) also joined to form a consortium and a tripartite agreement was signed on 27.09.2007. An application was filed by the consortium praying for the taking over of the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC) was heard by the Hon'ble High Court, Kolkata and stay on liquidation was granted. With the leave granted by the Hon'ble Court, due diligence was conducted by the consortium.

Following the due diligence, various creditors were approached for waiver of their respective dues. Government of West Bengal has agreed in principle to waive its dues if the Central Government took a similar stand. The State Bank of India, being the principal secured creditor, has agreed to settle for substantially reduced amount.

Very recently BEML has expressed a desire to withdraw from the consortium. After settlement of the issues of withdrawal by BEML and the waiver of dues by Government of West Bengal and Central Government the matter will be placed before Hon'ble High Court, Kolkata for further directions.